

IN THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1. (*Currently Amended*) An acoustic musical instrument, comprising:

a head having a tensioning device attached thereto;

a fingerboard extending from the head, the fingerboard having a plurality of frets;

a hollow body extending from the fingerboard and having a sounding board, a bottom board, and at least one side extending between the sounding board and the bottom board, the hollow body defining a sound chamber, the sounding board having a top surface and a bottom surface;

a bridge attached to the top surface of the sounding board;

a plurality of tone bars attached to the bottom surface of the sounding board;

at least two tone bars of the plurality of tone bars each having a notch formed therein;

a string block extending between said at least two tone bars of the plurality tone bars and spaced from said sounding board;

said string block being attached to each said notch;

at least one string having a first end attached to the tensioning device and having a second end; and

means for anchoring the second end of the at least one string to the string block.

Claim 2. *(Original)* The acoustic musical instrument of claim 1, wherein said acoustic musical instrument is a guitar.

Claim 3. *(Original)* The acoustic musical instrument of claim 2, wherein said at least one string is a steel string.

Claim 4. *(Original)* The acoustic musical instrument according to claim 1, wherein said bridge further comprises a bridge plate having an aperture defined therein, said sounding board having an aperture defined therein aligned with the aperture defined in the bridge plate, said at least one string passing through the aligned aperture and being attached to said string block.

Claim 5. *(Original)* The acoustic musical instrument of claim 1, wherein said means for anchoring comprises a peg extending through said bridge and said sounding board and being fixed in said string block.

Claim 6. *(Currently Amended)* A method of stringing a musical instrument, comprising the steps of:

providing a musical instrument having a sounding board and a plurality of tone bars attached to a bottom surface of the sounding board, with at least two of the tone bars each having a notch formed therein;

attaching a string block between each said notch, the string block being spaced from and positioned beneath the sounding board;

anchoring a first end of each of a plurality of strings to ~~[[a]]~~ the string block, ~~the string block being spaced from and positioned beneath a sounding board;~~ and

attaching a second end of each of said plurality of strings to a tensioning device.

Claim 7. *(Original)* The method of claim 6, wherein said anchoring step further comprises inserting a peg into an aperture formed in said string block.

Claim 8. *(New)* The acoustic musical instrument of claim 1, wherein said string block is attached to each said notch by an adhesive.